

Gimme Shelter

News from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter

Loudoun County
Department of
Animal Care &
Control



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Happy Cats-giving

November is a time to give thanks, and the Loudoun County Animal Shelter hopes to make a feline friend one of your blessings with the Happy Cats-giving program!

It's our way of saying Thank You for opening your home to one of the wonderful cats at our Shelter.

All cats adopted from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter in November will be spayed/neutered for free (if necessary). That means that all cats ages 7 years and under will have a \$20 adoption fee, and all cats over 7 will only be \$10.

Cats outrank dogs as America's #1 pet, and it is easy to see why. They may have the reputation for being aloof, but that's often far from true! Cats are affectionate, playful, and loyal. They make wonderful pets, and their natural independence often means they are easier to care for and adapt to our busy schedules.

Cats never require a 5am walk for a "potty break," and on cold, rainy days they are content to stay indoors for a nice long nap. They don't need to be housebroken, as they instinctively know to use a litter box. All they ask is for you to show them where it is and to keep it clean!

Cats can also be left alone for longer periods of time (as long as the food, water, and litter box is well attended). They are happy to entertain themselves, though they often enjoy having a kitty companion to pal around with.

If you haven't yet discovered the joys of having a cat in your life, then November is the purr-fect time to visit the Loudoun County Animal Shelter! We have lots of cats and kittens available for adoption – just visit www.loudoun.gov/animals to see them.

Holiday Pet Pantry

For the fourth year, Loudoun County Animal Care & Control is hosting a Pet Pantry in conjunction with the Community Holiday Coalition to provide donated pet food and supplies to families in need during the holiday season. The Pet Pantry will be located at the Community Holiday Coalition store in Sterling during its December distribution dates.

The economic downturn has created an even greater need to provide assistance to those experiencing financial hardships during this holiday season, and many of these families include pets. The Pet Pantry allows families who are picking up food, clothes, and toys at the Holiday Coalition Store to also receive food and treats for their pets. Over 1,500 pets have received items during the program's first three years.

The Pet Pantry is part of Loudoun County Animal Care & Control's award-winning CARE program, which works year-round to assist low income citizens with pet care needs such as medical assistance, low cost spay/neuter surgery, and pet food. Information will be made available about the CARE program for those that need additional assistance throughout the year.

The Pet Pantry is stocked solely through donations from citizens and businesses. Donations of unopened pet food, treats, and new or gently used toys will be accepted at the Loudoun County Animal Shelter, as well as at all Holiday Coalition collection sites, through December 17.

For more information on the Community Holiday Coalition and the Pet Pantry, visit www.loudoun.gov/holidaycoalition.



Why We're Thankful for Cats...

- No walking required!
- They bathe themselves.
- They are so easily amused—who else can truly appreciate the mystery of a paper bag?
- They don't make you feel guilty for taking a nap in the afternoon—in fact, they join right in.
- They show you how to appreciate that patch of sunlight on the living room floor.
- They remind us that a little attitude is OK.
- They know when you're down and how to pick you back up.
- Purring. What else do you need?



Last Horses Leave Shelter

Nearly 10 months after a cruelty investigation resulted in the seizure of 48 horses by Loudoun County Animal Care & Control, the last of the horses left the Loudoun County Animal Shelter on Wednesday, November 12, as transfers to Roanoke Valley Horse Rescue.

Forty-eight horses were seized by Loudoun County Animal Control Officers on January 22, 2008, after an ongoing cruelty investigation revealed that the horses were suffering from malnutrition and neglect. Forty-eight counts of animal cruelty are still pending in the case.

Since the seizure, Animal Care staff members have been diligently working to provide the horses with proper housing, food, water, and medical care, and to find placement for the horses in adoptive

homes or with equine rescue organizations. Some of the horses had special needs due to their poor condition and staff worked tirelessly to ensure the care and welfare of these animals.

Of the 48 horses, 21 were placed in adoptive homes (including 1 born after the seizure), 24 were placed with equine rescue groups, 1 was returned to its owner, and 3 were euthanized due to medical complications.

"Everyone at Animal Care & Control would like to extend our thanks to the community for supporting us during this time caring for these horses," noted Director Thomas J. Koenig. "The outpouring of generosity from the equine community, in giving of their time and opening their homes to these animals, as

well as the support we received from our rescue group partners, has been outstanding."



Employee of the Month

Jenny Swiggart is November's Employee of the Month! Jenny has worked for the Department since 2000, and has been the Advanced Animal Care & Training Coordinator since 2006.

Jenny is a great asset to the Department, and her leadership and dedication was evident this month as she stepped in to cover for the Shelter Manager while she was in training. Her hard work and support of the staff

ensured that everything ran smoothly.

Jenny's positive attitude and can-do spirit promotes a team environment and infuses everything she does. Her work reflects great credit to herself and to the Department.

Thank you Jenny for all you do!



Congratulations Jenny!

What We're Up To...

Furry Fridays

Have you been to Furry Friday yet? Eight animals have found loving homes at Furry Friday events to date! The next one is **Friday, December 12** from 5-7pm at the Sterling Community Center, 120 Enterprise Street. And, beginning in January, we'll have **two** Furry Fridays each month. Don't miss it!

Holiday Schedule

The Loudoun County Animal Shelter will

have adjusted hours for the Thanksgiving holiday. The Shelter will close at 6:00pm on Wednesday, November 26, and re-open on Saturday, November 29.

Emergency Animal Control services are available when the shelter is closed by calling 703-777-1021.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

